

# HARI-HARA KSHETRA, MAHA-VARANASI & ALAKANANDA RIVER

AT "SRI GODRUMADVIPA" ISLAND OF NAVADVIPA-MAYAPUR DHAMA



*ksetram hari-haram tirtva  
kasim ca moksa-dayinim ...*

“Lord Sri Hari crossed Sri Hari-Hara kshetra and Kasi-kshetra which gives liberation ...”

*(Navadvipa-Dhama-Mahatmya, Pramana-khanda 4.49, by Srila Bhaktivinoda Thakura)*

**Hari-Hara Kshetra** is situated in Godrumadvipa island of Navadvipa-Mayapur Dhama on the eastern bank of the Alakananda River. At present this river is not flowing but a portion of this river is still visible. In the temple of Hari-Hara Kshetra there is a Deity who is half Lord Siva and half Lord Visnu. The western side of the Alakananda is considered non-different from *Kasi* (Varanasi), in fact this place is greater than *Kasi* and known as *Maha-Varanasi*. Here Lord Siva is dancing chanting the holy name “**Gaura! Gaura!**”. He offers his associates devotion unto Lord Gauranga. *Sannyasis* get liberation after cultivating *jnana* for thousands of years in *Kasi*. The devotees here at *Maha-Varanasi* reject that offer of liberation and dance in ecstasy chanting the holy name of Gauranga. Lord Siva delivers anyone who dies here by chanting the name of Gauranga in his ear at the time of death. Living entities have no fear at this *Maha-Varanasi-dhama*.

Explaining the glories of this place, when Lord Nityananda arrived here while taking Jiva Gosvami to Navadvipa-Mandala Parikrama, He started to dance in ecstasy, offering *Gaura-prema* to all the living entities. At that time *Kailasa-pati* Lord Siva invisibly came there and offered his obeisance to Lord Nityananda bowing his head in front of Him. Here Lord Siva and his consort Gauri chant holy name of Gauranga to fulfil their desires.



**HARI-HARA KSHETRA TEMPLE IN GODRUMADVIPA ISLAND OF NAVADVIPA-MAYAPUR  
DHAMA**





### **HARI-HARA (CENTRE), HALF-VISNU, HALF-SIVA**

**Presiding Deities:** The main deity is Sri Hari-Hara. He is half *Lord Visnu* (black side) and half *Lord Siva* (white side).

Lord Visnu's eternal consort Lakshmi-devi is on the left, and Lord Siva's eternal consort Parvati-devi is on the right.

There is a deity of Burho Siva or Vrddha Siva (Old Siva) with moustache and beard.

There is also a deity of Gopala, and the footprints of Sri Gadadhara Pandit who is eternal associate & internal manifest energy of Lord Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu.

There is also a deity of Sitala-devi on the floor riding on the horse.



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### LORD SIVA, A GAURA BHAKTA

Lord Krishna manifested Himself in the form of Hari-Hara to show how dear Lord Siva is to Him. Lord Siva is the topmost Vaisnava and is constantly rendering service to Lord Krishna and chanting His holy names: **HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISHNA KRISHNA KRISHNA HARE HARE / HARE RAMA HARE RAMA RAMA RAMA HARE HARE**. The *Srimad-Bhagavatam* describes that after killing some demons, Lord Krishna's *sudarsana chakra* burnt down Lord Siva's city of Kasi. Lord Siva left that city and took refuge here, so this place is also known as Maha-Kasi or Maha-Varanasi.

However, "This Navadvipa-Kasi is superior to the other Kasi," writes Srila Bhaktivinoda, "Here, Siva is always dancing and chanting the name Gaura, begging his followers to accept *Gaura-Bhakti*. The *sannyasis* who live for a thousand years in Kasi may obtain liberation through the cultivation of *jnana*, but here the devotees kick away that liberation as they dance and chant the name of Gauranga. While leaving the body here, living entities are delivered by Lord Siva, who chants the name of Gauranga in their ears. Thus *dhama* is thus called Maha-Varanasi for here there is no fear of death."

--Sri Navadvipa Dhama Mahatmya

### THEFT OF HARI-HARA FOILED

In 1997 some thieves tried to steal Hari-Hara. The next day, a fox came to some children who were playing near the temple. This was most unusual so the children followed this fox and were led to where Hari-Hara had been abandoned in a nearby jute field. During the investigations, a court case arose and Hari-Hara spent 4 years residing in the Krishnanagar Police station with a case number tag tied to His finger that previously held



**the Sudarshana chakra. An unknown women came every day to offer Hari-Hara fresh water & incense.**

**Hari-Hara returned to the temple in May 2001 amidst a grand festival organized by a committee of local devotees and ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness).**

## **ALAKANANDA RIVER**

There is a very nice pastime of Lord Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu by the Alaknanda River. Sri Jagadananda Pandit has described this pastime very nicely in his book *Prema-vivarta*:

"One day my Lord Gauranga Mahaprabhu in a playful mood went to the dense forest on the bank of Alakananda. Myself and Sri Gadadhara Pandit were both there with Mahaprabhu. The Lord playfully caught hold of a *suka* (parrot) from the *bakula* tree. Mahaprabhu said, 'You are the son of Vyasadeva. Please chant Sri Radha-Krishna and increase our happiness.' The *suka*, however, did not chant the holy name of Sri Radha-Krishna but instead chanted "Gaurahari". Then Mahaprabhu threw him away pretending that He was angry with him because the bird was not chanting the holy name of Sri Radha-Krishna. Still the *suka* continued chanting "Gaura, Gaura!" and danced with great love.

Mahaprabhu said, 'Oh, Suka! This is Vrindavana. Please chant the holy name of Sri Radha and Krishna and let everybody hear the holy name.' The bird replied, 'Vrindavana has transformed into Navadvipa. Sri Radha and Krishna have appeared as Sri Gadadhara. I am the *suka* who chants the holy name of Sri Gaurahari and stays in this forest. You are my Sri Radha-Krishna. This Gadadhara is Srimati Radharani. Gadai and Gauranga are the Lords of my life. Nothing else comes from my mouth.' Lord Gauranga Mahaprabhu said, 'I am a worshiper of Sri Radha-Krishna. I feel sad to hear any other name.'

Saying this Mahaprabhu caught hold of Gadadhara's hand and went back to Mayapur leaving behind the *suka* who said, You chant whatever You like. I will do my *bhajana* here eternally, chanting the holy name of **Gaurahari**."

### **Directions to reach Hari-Hara Kshetra:**

Return to the Amghat railway station and cross the railway lines. Go down the small dirt road on the side of the station where the Amghat sign is. Continue on this road passing two small roads on the left side. After passing the second road on the left, you will make a sharp left turn. You will then see this Hari-Hara Kshetra Temple in the open area on the right of the road. It is on the bank of the Alakananda River. One can also visit Hari-Hara Kshetra by attending Navadvipa-Mandala Parikrama which is organized each year by ISKCON Mayapur about 2 weeks before *Gaura-Purnima*.

**MAYAPUR TV:** <http://Mayapur.tv>

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